

## Friday Notes

2/8 Families,

It's time to talk about homecoming!

But let's get some other information out of the way first.....

### 2/8 Ball

The Marine Corps Ball will be held at the Sheraton Convention Center in Myrtle Beach, SC on 29 October 2011. Tickets can be purchased after the unit returns from deployment; however, you may book your room now. A personalized web site for the 2/8 USMC Birthday Ball has been created.

Guests can access the site to learn more about the event and to book, modify, or cancel a reservation from May 18, 2011 to November 1, 2011.

Below you will find the link to access the site

[2D BN 8TH MARINES USMC BIRTHDAY BALL](#)

### Hwy 24 Closure

North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) announced a traffic disruption on Hwy 24 and Piney Green Rd. The intersection will be **closed** between the hours of 0700 and 0900 on Sunday 22 May 2011. NC State troopers will be present to direct traffic. After 0900, one lane in each direction will be open. Drivers traveling on Piney Green Road toward NC Hwy 24 will only be able to turn right at the intersection and head toward Jacksonville. Drivers should plan an alternate route. Recommend base traffic wishing to go toward Swansboro/Emerald Isle use NC 172 and the Triangle Gate.

### Maynia

Celebrate Spring with Maynia!

20-22 May, W.P.T. Hill Field, Camp Lejeune

Maynia is back and better than ever! This three-day spring celebration will take place 20-22 May on W.P.T. Hill Field aboard Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune. Maynia is open to the public.

Maynia offers something for everyone! This year's festivities feature a carnival, Mini Maynia children's activity area, live musical entertainment, cooking demonstrations, lots of food, beer garden, and much more!

Admission to the fair is FREE! Unlimited rides are just \$3 per person per day; ages 2 and under FREE!

Maynia is presented by HP and sponsored by Onslow County Tourism, Coca-Cola, and Le Bleu. No Federal or USMC endorsement implied.

For more details about Maynia, please visit: <http://www.mccslejeune.com/maynia> or call [910.451.1807](tel:910.451.1807)

### **Child Development Program Assistants Job Fair**

Sat, 21 May \* 0900-1300

Stone Street Youth Pavilion \* Bldg 842 \* Camp Lejeune Love working with Children? Children, Youth & Teen Programs and Marine Corps Community Services will be holding on-site interviews for Child Development Program Assistants, starting salary \$10.95. Come dressed for success!

Applicants must be 18 years or older and need to bring a copy of your High School Diploma or GED with you.

Previous applicants must attend and reapply in order to be considered.

Questions? Call MCCS Human Resources at 910-451-JOBS (5627).

<http://www.mccslejeune.com/jobs/index.html>

Marine Corps Community Services Camp Lejeune is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

*Upcoming Child Development Program Assistants Job Fairs Sat, 21 May Sat, 23 Jul*

### **Challenging Children Workshop Series**

What can you do when your child starts screaming in a crowded area for no reason? How should you react?

How can we help our children have better behavior in any situation? We've got a brand new series of workshops that will help any parent, soon-to-be parents, grandparents, educators, and childcare providers manage difficult behaviors.

#### **Challenging Children Evening Workshop Series**

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Tuesdays ♦ 1830-2000

Russell Marine & Family Services Center ♦ Bldg 40 ♦ Rm 139 This free monthly workshop held on the 4th Tuesday of every month, is open to all ID cardholders. Free childcare information will be shared upon advance registration, please call 451-4103.

Upcoming Topics:

24 May - Reinforcement Techniques

28 Jun - Self-Help Skills

26 Jul - Easy to Use Methods of Tracking Behavior

23 Aug - Use of Functional Communication Techniques to Decrease Problem Behaviors

27 Sep - Token Systems

25 Oct - Tantrums

22 Nov - Time Out

#### **Challenging Children Daytime Workshop Series**

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Wednesdays ♦ 1100-1300

Russell Marine & Family Services Center ♦ Bldg 40 ♦ Rm 139 Free childcare is provided with advance registration. For more information, please call 910-451-4103.

Upcoming Topics:

22 Jun - ADHD/ODD

24 Aug - Choosing Your Battles

26 Oct - Practical Applications for Everyday Behaviors

14 Dec - Helping Children Identify and Cope with their Behaviors

**Now the information you have been waiting for.....**

As our Marines are busy preparing to come home, we are making preparations for their return. The Family Readiness Team hopes that you will find the following information helpful in planning the reunion with your loved one. There are several topics we would like to address - return windows, post deployment leave, and flight colors. Due to the large amount of information to pass it will be provided during the next few weeks in installments. Topics next week will cover local accommodations, base passes and homecoming signs/events.

Before we jump into the details this is a good time to remind all of our families that the official information will be passed through the Family Readiness Office as directed by the Battalion Commander. There will always be rumors and false information passed and we encourage you to call the office to determine the validity of anything you hear or see posted.

### **Return Dates**

Return dates are passed as "windows", meaning that you will first receive a block of days (usually 3-4) and the return could be on any one of these days. As the time draws closer, the flight schedules and manifests are finalized. When this happens, the battalion hotline will be updated as to what day and approximate time specific flight colors. Please keep in mind that days and times are subject to change as weather conditions, flight schedules/availability and transportation are not necessarily controllable. The Battalion Hotline ( 1 800 230 8762 ext 32 ) will be updated to reflect any last minute changes in scheduling. It is suggested that you call this number the day of your Marine's or sailors expected return to make sure the timeline has not changed.

### **Making Travel Plans**

Unlike our commercial air travel system that works on fixed schedules, military airlift from overseas works on a priority based system. It is designed, managed and operated to have the maximum amount of flexibility to allow for a last minute, worldwide response to an international crisis. Consequently, it can't be viewed as a precise system. Usually at about the 1 month from return date we can only narrow the arrival dates to a one-week window, then to about a three-day window at about the 2-3 week from return time. Military airlift is frequently redirected at the last moment for higher priority missions in support of international crises and contingencies. It is not uncommon for the arrival hour to shift several times during the last couple of days as well. The command does understand that you want to be present for homecoming and will provide families with return dates/windows as soon as they are released. Please keep in mind the focus of the command is on ensuring a safe and smooth transition, for

all of our unit members, from the battlefield to the homefront. We must continue to place an emphasis on Operational Security, even in this time of excitement and anticipation, as we do not want jeopardize our warriors return nor the safety of the unit that replaces ours.

Let's skip ahead (past actual homecoming info) to post-deployment leave in order to dispel rumors. Post deployment leave dates are not finalized, the Battalion Commander would like post deployment leave to be from 2 Sept to 2 October. Keep in mind that this date is not set in stone and can shift either way. Do not make any travel or vacation plans without first ensuring they are refundable or can be changed.

When a unit returns from deployment all members must go through Warrior Transition classes. Typically these classes last 5-7 work days depending upon scheduling restrictions. Leave is not authorized until every deployed member of the unit has returned home and completed the required classes. Block leave dates may change depending upon actual unit return dates, and scheduling/training requirements. The amount of leave taken depends upon how many days each Marine or sailor has accrued. If he does not have 30 days, he cannot take all 30 days of block leave. All Operational Risk Management (ORM) requirements will be complied with prior to each Marine/sailor going on leave.

### **How will information about homecoming be passed?**

Some of you may know that our Mass Communication Tool (MCT) has been phased out and is being replaced by Marine Online (MOL). The contract for the MCT was canceled in January 2011 for most USMC units but was extended for units in a deployed/deploying status. MOL requires each Marine/sailor to physically input contacts and data; this will not be completed until after the unit returns. Additionally MOL only has email notification capability at this time, with voice message capability in the future. So the question is, what do we do? It is actually pretty simple,

### **We go old school.**

The Battalion Hotline will be utilized to pass all flight return dates and/or changes. Think of it as a reverse MCT—no more 111 calls, and you never have to worry about missing or dropping a call! Simply call the hotline, which will be updated twice a day once window are released, for any updates or information.

The Battalion website, Parents Forum, and Wives Facebook will be used for alerts. Return dates and times will never be posted on any social networking/web site and we ask that you do not post them either. The three sites above will be used to post a notice for you to check the hotline should an update or change occur on short notice.

**Flights**.....will be color-coded. This serves two purposes – simplicity and privacy. It is much easier to inform families utilizing a color system rather than flight dates as we sometimes have multiple flights arriving close together. Each Marine/sailor is responsible for contacting friends and family to notify them of which color flight they will be arriving on. Unit members will have ample opportunity to call/email/Skype home and pass flight colors. The Family Readiness Office will not provide names for specific flights.

## Remember

- Advon out does not mean Advon back
- Flight colors will be passed to all Marines and sailors
- Rumors will increase as the return approaches, stay in touch with the FRO
- Only the FRO will pass official information, anything else is to be considered speculation and rumor

## Unit Website

<http://www.marines.mil/unit/2ndmardiv/8thmarreg/2ndbat/Pages/default.aspx>

## Battalion Hotline

1 800 230-8762 enter ext 32 at any time during the recording

## Base Operator

(910) 451-1113 ext 0

Have a great weekend